

Today, in a moment of low interest rates and historic need and a rapidly warming planet, we have an opportunity and an obligation to invest in a stronger, greener, and better connected future.

The American Jobs Plan is that chance, a chance to build back better and make a generational investment for our grandchildren's future. This includes: roads, bridges, public transportation, drinking water, broadband, and good, clean energy union jobs.

I worked with a Republican legislature and a Republican Governor to help pass Pennsylvania's infrastructure bill. I hope we can get together and work across the aisle for infrastructure investment for the next generation.

BENEFITS OF THE VACCINE AND RETURNING TO NORMAL LIFE

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, since March, I have traveled my district, administering COVID-19 vaccines. As a doctor and former Director of Public Health, I combat vaccine hesitancy by discussing the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine, and the benefits of returning to normal lives, removing our masks, gathering together, and reopening businesses and schools by attaining herd immunity.

But the deepening mental health crisis has become an epidemic within the pandemic. Yesterday, I read of yet another youth suicide. Eighteen-year-old star quarterback Dylan Buckner, with plans to attend MIT, committed suicide on January 7. His father said that the Illinois extended stay-at-home orders and school closures greatly contributed to his suicide.

As leaders, it is our responsibility to encourage and incentivize vaccinations. One incentive is by removing our masks and returning to normal. Despite having reached the traditional level of herd immunity by our Members, our Chamber does not reflect a return to normal.

I implore leadership and the Attending Physician to follow science and the CDC guidelines, and permit Members who have been vaccinated or who have naturalized immunity to forgo wearing a mask while in the Chamber, and incentivize and show the public that a world beyond the pandemic exists.

Not another minute should go by where children as young as 9 years old commit suicide because they see no hope of a future beyond the pandemic. We cannot waste another second or another young life.

Let us remove our masks and show America that there can be a light at the end of the pandemic tunnel.

REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO THE EARTH

(Ms. BONAMICI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, in Northwest Oregon, raging wildfires have made the air unhealthy to breathe. Ocean acidification, harmful algal bloom, and hypoxia threaten our fisheries. Droughts and extreme weather patterns jeopardize the livelihoods of our farmers.

But there is hope. By recognizing the scale and urgency of the climate crisis, we can take meaningful action to address it.

Today, the Biden-Harris administration is convening a group of world leaders to commit to ambitious action. We stand ready to work with them to enact policies that reduce emissions, create jobs, and support frontline communities.

Last year, I joined my colleagues on the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis in releasing our bold, comprehensive, science-based Climate Action Plan to reach net-zero emissions no later than mid-century, and net-negative thereafter. It includes bills like my bipartisan Blue Carbon for Our Planet Act, which I am reintroducing today, to help capture the power of the ocean and coastal ecosystems in mitigating the climate crisis.

The Climate Action Plan is our road map. Now, on this 51st anniversary of Earth Day, we must all reaffirm our commitment to the Earth and to taking bold action to solve the climate crisis.

KEEPING OBSCENE AND INDECENT CONTENT OFF OUR AIRWAVES

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, John Adams said our Constitution is fit for a moral and religious people, and is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.

The average American watches about 30 hours a week on broadcast TV. And, of course, what starts on broadcast TV winds up on other screens as well. The Federal Communications Commission is tasked with keeping obscene and indecent content off the airwaves.

While there are some especially responsible parents who raise their children with no TV in the house at all, as a practical matter, broadcast TV affects the moral norms of the Nation.

I have received complaints in my office, and rightfully so, about Cardi B and the GRAMMYS. They wonder why we are paying the FCC if they feel this should be in living rooms across the Nation.

I realize that KAMALA HARRIS has used her fame to promote this performer, but I assure the FCC that millions of Americans would view her performance as inconsistent with basic decency.

Wake up, FCC, and begin to do your job. The moral decline of America is partly due to your utter complacency.

FULL ACCESS TO BENEFITS FOR VETERANS

(Ms. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, as a registered nurse and a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have spent my time in Congress fighting to ensure that northern Illinois veterans and veterans across the Nation have full access to the benefits and support that they have earned.

A critical part of that work has been focusing on ending the veteran suicide crisis by providing veterans with the resources they need and equipping VA employees and community partners with the training necessary to support veterans in crisis.

That is why, this week, I reintroduced the bicameral Lethal Means Safety Training Act with Senator BLUMENTHAL and Representatives BROWNLEY, MRVAN, LEVIN, and PAPPAS.

This legislation is an evidence-based approach to prevent suicide, and it creates valuable time and space between a veteran in crisis and a potentially lethal means.

I am honored that my bill has been endorsed by a broad coalition of veterans service organizations and suicide prevention experts, including: The Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, the Minority Veterans of America, the American Association of Suicidology, and many more.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Lethal Means Safety Training Act and join me in the urgent mission of ending our veteran suicide crisis.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF DAVID KERN

(Mr. DAVIDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and memory of David Kern.

David recently passed away at the age of 79, following a long fight with cancer. I am particularly extending my condolences to his beloved wife, Katy; his 4 children and 11 grandchildren.

David was a veteran of the United States Army, a volunteer firefighter, a small business owner. He served as Liberty Township Trustee for 32 years, and he was chairman of the Butler County Republican Party. He was an avid hunter, fisherman, and conservationist.

More than all that, however, he was a friend and someone who gave me sound advice and used his influence as a mentor.

David Kern was a very good man, and his presence will be sorely missed by his family, our community, and all who knew and loved him.

RECOGNIZING JORGE CHAVES MEZA

(Ms. CRAIG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, it is such an honor to have the ability to help my constituents back home by solving problems and making our government work more effectively for them.

Earlier this year, a man named Jorge Chaves Meza from Farmington, Minnesota, reached out to my office for help enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps. You see, Jorge came to our community from Costa Rica in hopes of serving our country in the U.S. military, but his Permanent Resident Card was lost in the mail.

This could have prevented Jorge from serving our Nation, but, fortunately, my office was able to work with the USCIS to expedite getting Jorge a replacement card. I am so glad to announce that he received it and just took his oath of enlistment.

Stories like Jorge's are the most rewarding part of public service, and I am so proud of his commitment to serving our Nation.

Thank you, Jorge, for your service.

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D.C. STATEHOOD

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, yet another blatant political power grab is underway on the heels of H.R. 1, nationalizing all that is wrong with our elections, the packing of the Supreme Court, and now we have H.R. 51, an unconstitutional bill to create a State of Washington, D.C.

The Founders were very clear and specific to leave our District out of the coercion and the tentacles of a State trying to influence it.

No. This is yet another naked power grab to ensure two new Democratic Senators in a 90 percent Democrat district. That is the result they are trying to get. This new State would be 1/17th the size of Rhode Island and about the same population as Fresno, California.

In 1847, the Virginia Retrocession Act took some of the excess land that they weren't using and put it back into Virginia. We can do the same thing with a bill I am coauthoring, taking the unneeded part and putting it back into Maryland, instead of trying to create a State against the Constitution.

This is a power grab that must be stopped. It is unconstitutional, and it goes against the grain of what our Founders had in mind to have separation.

WASHINGTON, D.C. ADMISSION ACT

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House

Resolution 330, I call up the bill (H.R. 51) to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Pursuant to House Resolution 330, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Oversight and Reform, printed in the bill, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 51

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Washington, D.C. Admission Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—STATE OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

Subtitle A—Procedures for Admission

Sec. 101. Admission into the Union.

Sec. 102. Election of Senators and Representative.

Sec. 103. Issuance of presidential proclamation.

Subtitle B—Seat of Government of the United States

Sec. 111. Territory and boundaries.

Sec. 112. Description of Capital.

Sec. 113. Retention of title to property.

Sec. 114. Effect of admission on current laws of seat of Government of United States.

Sec. 115. Capital National Guard.

Sec. 116. Termination of legal status of seat of Government of United States as municipal corporation.

Subtitle C—General Provisions Relating to Laws of State

Sec. 121. Effect of admission on current laws.

Sec. 122. Pending actions and proceedings.

Sec. 123. Limitation on authority to tax Federal property.

Sec. 124. United States nationality.

TITLE II—INTERESTS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Subtitle A—Federal Property

Sec. 201. Treatment of military lands.

Sec. 202. Waiver of claims to Federal property.

Subtitle B—Federal Courts

Sec. 211. Residency requirements for certain Federal officials.

Sec. 212. Renaming of Federal courts.

Sec. 213. Conforming amendments relating to Department of Justice.

Sec. 214. Treatment of pretrial services in United States District Court.

Subtitle C—Federal Elections

Sec. 221. Permitting individuals residing in Capital to vote in Federal elections in State of most recent domicile.

Sec. 222. Repeal of Office of District of Columbia Delegate.

Sec. 223. Repeal of law providing for participation of seat of government in election of President and Vice-President.

Sec. 224. Expedited procedures for consideration of constitutional amendment repealing 23rd Amendment.

TITLE III—CONTINUATION OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Subtitle A—Employee Benefits

Sec. 301. Federal benefit payments under certain retirement programs.

Sec. 302. Continuation of Federal civil service benefits for employees first employed prior to establishment of District of Columbia merit personnel system.

Sec. 303. Obligations of Federal Government under judges' retirement program.

Subtitle B—Agencies

Sec. 311. Public Defender Service.

Sec. 312. Prosecutions.

Sec. 313. Service of United States Marshals.

Sec. 314. Designation of felons to facilities of Bureau of Prisons.

Sec. 315. Parole and supervision.

Sec. 316. Courts.

Subtitle C—Other Programs and Authorities

Sec. 321. Application of the College Access Act.

Sec. 322. Application of the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act.

Sec. 323. Medicaid Federal medical assistance percentage.

Sec. 324. Federal planning commissions.

Sec. 325. Role of Army Corps of Engineers in supplying water.

Sec. 326. Requirements to be located in District of Columbia.

TITLE IV—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 401. General definitions.

Sec. 402. Statehood Transition Commission.

Sec. 403. Certification of enactment by President.

Sec. 404. Severability.

TITLE I—STATE OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

Subtitle A—Procedures for Admission

SEC. 101. ADMISSION INTO THE UNION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the provisions of this Act, upon the issuance of the proclamation required by section 103(a), the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth is declared to be a State of the United States of America, and is declared admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the other States in all respects whatever.

(b) CONSTITUTION OF STATE.—The State Constitution shall always be republican in form and shall not be repugnant to the Constitution of the United States or the principles of the Declaration of Independence.

(c) NONSEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this section, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid, the remaining provisions of this Act and any amendments made by this Act shall be treated as invalid.

SEC. 102. ELECTION OF SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE.

(a) ISSUANCE OF PROCLAMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not more than 30 days after receiving certification of the enactment of this Act from the President pursuant to section 403, the Mayor shall issue a proclamation for the first elections for 2 Senators and one Representative in Congress from the State, subject to the provisions of this section.

(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR ELECTIONS OF SENATORS.—In the elections of Senators from the State pursuant to paragraph (1), the 2 Senate offices shall be separately identified and designated, and no person may be a candidate for both offices. No such identification or designation of either of the offices shall refer to or be taken to refer to the terms of such offices, or in any way impair the privilege of the Senate to determine the class to which each of the Senators shall be assigned.

(b) RULES FOR CONDUCTING ELECTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The proclamation of the Mayor issued under subsection (a) shall provide for the holding of a primary election and a general election, and at such elections the officers required to be elected as provided in subsection (a) shall be chosen by the qualified voters of the District of Columbia in the manner required by the laws of the District of Columbia.

(2) CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS.—Election results shall be certified in the manner required by